

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
10/791,626	3/1/04	Robert E. Coifman et al	RCOIF3.1-001US

Response To Official Action

EXAMINER	
ABEBE, Daniel Demelash	
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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application with claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17 and 22 being independent. These claims are hereby cancelled and replaced with claims 26-47 which substantially conform to those presented in the European Patent Office in a counterpart patent application. The Examiner's attention is directed to European Patent No. EP 1,599,867 B1, a copy of which is enclosed, in which claims 26-47 have been allowed over the prior art of record in that case. Minor edits have been made above to the European claims allowed in that application to conform with US PTO claiming practice. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

As a preliminary observation, the present invention provides a solution to the specific problem of entering data into computerized form fields where a sub-database is defined and populated over time only with the text strings previously entered into the respective fields. This provides highly relevant information in the sub-databases for input into each field and results in the size of each sub-database generally being considerably smaller than that of the first pass database used generally in speech recognition systems. As explained at paragraph 39 of the published application, US2004/0254791, some embodiments of this organization may require more computer memory because of the information redundancy needed for any particular organization of or creation of the discrete sub-databases; however, any disadvantages in the overall database size are offset by the advantage of having smaller vocabularies that can be more quickly swapped in and out of computer memory for searching within the speech recognition system. Since a relatively small file size is involved, it is easier to import into working memory an appropriate sub-database which contains only highly relevant text strings compiled from previous entries. In some particularly preferred embodiments, the appropriate sub-database may be conditioned by other contexts in addition to or instead of the form field, e.g. a system user, a medical patient.

This system is particularly advantageous when it is to be used by a static group of users, for example doctors within a medical practice, which have used and are repeatedly attempting to match ongoing transcription against known, verified data previously input, e.g. inputs by the

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same group of physicians, for the same patients, with the same conditions and having the same mailing addresses, etc.

In this manner, the present invention, as claimed in the new claims above, is different from generic, automated recognition and response speech recognition systems. In these automated recognition and response speech recognition systems the completion of speech-to-text matching transactions is typically performed against a large universe of allowed target vocabulary and the efficiencies of such systems typically involve the efficient extraction of queries from an equally large universe of verbal inputs. In these systems, the optimization focus is typically on one or more of the following: input speech parsing from unfamiliar users, database solution set generation, and conflict resolution or database selection optimization between the parsed speech and the retrieved solution set.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,778,344 to Attwater et al. ("Attwater") Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to the 102(b) rejection, it is well understood that in order to reject a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must contain each and every limitation of the claim, either expressly or under the doctrine of inherency. *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc.* 848 F.2d 1560, 1570 (Fed. Cir), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 892 (1988). Applicants submit that Attwater does not disclose or suggest every feature of the claimed inventions.

With respect to Attwater, the Applicant first notes that the invention of Attwater is directed to the design and operation of a typical, automated recognition and response speech recognition system. In the primary described embodiment, Attwater's system is illustrated in the context of a telephone number retrieval system in which an anonymous user is queried for a called-party's surname, forename and town. (Fig. 1, generally) The complications solved by Attwater are primarily directed to resolving ambiguities in the database retrievals (telephone numbers)

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according to the automated, prompted verbal input of the users, e.g. discerning Smith and Smyth. (Figs. 3-4 generally and Col. 4, l. 45 though col. 8, l. 65).

In contrast, nowhere in Attwater is disclosed a method for creating (or an apparatus including) a specified database containing text strings, in which the text strings are provided from the inputs of previous use of the system. Further, nowhere in Attwater is disclosed a subdivision of the specified database according to a context of the input data. For these reasons, among others, Attwater does not disclose each and every limitation of each of the independent claims of the present application. Thus the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection with respect to this reference and allow this case to passage.

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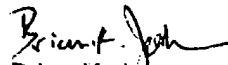
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the Examiner's rejections have been properly addressed or rendered moot and that the claims are in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, in better form for appeal.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written petition for extension of time if needed. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1886.

Respectfully Submitted,


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